

The Good Ol'Days

Du'Waine Davidson

There is a learning and development that is necessary to walk into the promises and inheritance of the kingdom. As a matter of fact the word said (1 Cor. 1:27) that he chooses the weak to confound the wise. That word confound means to cause surprise or confusion in (someone), especially by acting against their expectations.

This is to say how you go through something is more important than what you are going through. Although in his omnipotence he can deliver us from a thing but would rather deliver us IN a thing so that He alone can get the glory and walk you out of it.

In the book of John 9:3 there is a record of Jesus opening the eyes of a blind man which when asked by the disciples if this man was blind because of his sins, Jesus replied”**3** “It was not because of his sins or his parents’ sins,” Jesus answered. “This happened so the power of God could be seen in him.”

I submit to you that not all things that you facing are results of your actions but that the power of God can be seen in you. When we began to understand this then we begin to accept the way we were born, who we were born through and the difficulties we face in our lives. If God can get the Glory out of the hardships and opposition that we did not cause how much more can he get the Glory out of the pain we've caused on ourselves.

If the same God that breathed life from out of space and time and formed the earth - we must consider that the trials and temptation that we've been dragged out of and enticed with will have to submit to the authority and power of our our belief in Jesus.

This also proves that my wealth and well being is not contingent upon our silver spoon maid servant or Chaufer status but in the perspective in which we see our situation. With that being said it doesn't matter what I'm going through, whose inheritance I've been privileged to or what red carpet has been rolled out for me I can only walk into that which I can visualize in my mind. Thus leaving my situation no longer subjected to it's being but the perspective I choose to highlight. I choose to highlight The Good Ol Days

The title of my sermon today is

T **he Good Ol' Days**

We often refer to the good ol days when gas 25 cents, when momma used to wake me up to the smell of bacon, breakfast potatoes and coffee seeping through the door on Saturday mornings or when our curfew was only tied into the street lights coming on outside.

We often use phrases like “remember when, back in the day, when I was growing up” to bring to us the memories of our past whether good or bad

One of those Good Ol Days were recorded in the book of Joshua

After the children of Israel crossed the Jordan the Lord instructed Joshua

Joshua 4:2-6 NLT

2 “ Now choose twelve men, one from each tribe. 3 Tell them, ‘Take twelve stones from the very place where the priests are standing in the middle of the Jordan. Carry them out and pile them up at the place where you will camp tonight.’”

4 So Joshua called together the twelve men he had chosen—one from each of the tribes of Israel. 5 He told them, “Go into the middle of the Jordan, in front of the Ark of the Lord your God. Each of you must pick up one stone and carry it out on your shoulder—twelve stones in all, one for each of the twelve tribes of Israel. 6 We will use these stones to build a memorial. In the future your children will ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ 7 Then you can tell them, ‘They remind us that the Jordan River stopped flowing when the Ark of the Lord’s Covenant went across.’ These stones will stand as a memorial among the people of Israel forever.”

I come to remind you today that your stones are telling of the Good ol Days
The scars, the burns, the trauma, the bruises and the wounds are nothing but a memorial to tell the story of how and what God has brought you through your Egypt. When your children will ask Mom, what happened ?
Dad, what’s that?

Your current battle and those to come will be just that. An opportunity for your testimony and a witness to how far God has brought you.

This is not to say that going through it didn’t hurt but that I have witnessed breakthrough, healing, and deliverance when I thought I was stuck in the wilderness.

Many of us smell the smoke, avoid the heat and walk away from the fire abandoning the season when you earn your stones. God desires to create with

the stones in our lives. But if we change our perspective on the battles we face we'd begin to see how these stones will become a Highlight Reel

H **ighlight Reels**

A Highlight reel is a compilation of the most compelling moments from a longer video or set of content.

Used in Marketing

Videos

Commercials

Highlight Reels are nothing new but just a term used in society today. The Bible is the most popular book ever written and only a glimpse of a reel highlighting the creation of heaven, earth, human kind and its purpose and introduced us to the life death and resurrection of Jesus

I want to remind you what Paul said to the Philippians about the good ol days while he was in prison.

Philippians 1:12-14 NLT

12 And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters,^[c] that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. **13** For everyone here, including the whole palace guard,^[d] knows that I am in chains because of Christ. **14** And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers^[e] here have gained confidence and boldly speak God's message^[f] without fear

Philippians 4:10-13 NLT

10 How I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me, but you didn't have the chance to help me. **11** Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. **12** I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. **13** For I can do everything through Christ, ^[d] who gives me strength.

Paul understood the stones that were being built as a memorial and didn't compare his good ol days to nothing else but giving God Glory. Many of us have been going through the same cycles and the same issues because we've failed to look at the good ol days being made right before our eyes. We don't recognize that the stones of victory and deliverance but we'd rather look at yesterday and utter "I remember when".

This is why some of us compare our current status with someone else's. I've heard single people say "I wish I was married" and I've heard married people say "I wish I was single". I can tell you about both and purpose is the only thing that will satisfy what you're looking for. Besides both come with a price and a great deal of dying to self.

Children complain about wanting to be grown until they are grown.

In my opinion its a slap in the face to God when we complain because its us putting limits on God and his existence and working in your life. To be inspired by something or someone is one thing but comparison is us telling God that the life and breath he died for isn't good enough.

Single vs Married, Rich vs poor, Job status and or living situations.

What was supposed to be a funeral for Jesus became a memorial thus giving us the stone that rolled away and cornerstone that we have been built upon.

When we decide to allow our stones to become memorials we display character like the soldiers with Empty Sleeves.

E ***mpy Sleeves (Soldier Slide)***

The phrase "empty sleeves" in the context of the Civil War typically refers to the soldiers who returned home after the war with amputated arms. It became a poignant symbol of the physical and emotional toll that the war had on individuals, families, and the nation. These soldiers, with their "empty sleeves," represented sacrifice, loss, and the enduring scars of war. During and after the Civil War, the sight of veterans with missing limbs was common, as medical treatments were often rudimentary, and amputations were a primary means of addressing battlefield injuries. The image of a soldier with an empty sleeve became a powerful visual reminder of the cost of conflict, and in a broader sense, it symbolized the lasting impact of war on both personal lives and the collective identity of the country.

1. **Sacrifice and Loss:** The "empty sleeves" can be seen as a representation of sacrifice—literal physical sacrifice in the case of these soldiers, but also a metaphor for the emotional, relational, and spiritual sacrifices that come with conflict or struggle. Just as soldiers gave parts of themselves for the cause, we too sometimes lose parts of ourselves in life's battles, whether through trials, suffering, or sacrifice for others.

2. **Scars and Restoration:** "Empty sleeves" are also a symbol of scars—reminders of past pain and conflict. But, like the soldiers who learned to live and adapt despite their amputations, there's a message of resilience and recovery. God, in His grace, can bring restoration and purpose, even when we feel as though we've lost something vital. These physical losses became stories of courage, much like how the trials we face become testimonies of God's faithfulness.
3. **A Memorial to What Was:** Just as you "The Good Ol' Days" are about memorials and remembering God's deliverance, the image of empty sleeves can serve as a modern parallel. These soldiers carried with them a constant reminder of the past—the empty sleeves, a form of memorial to the sacrifices made and the lives changed. In a similar way, the challenges and losses we experience in life become stones of remembrance, testimonies of how God brings us through difficulty.

This is what a real stone looks like. Not one of sadness or defeat but of victory. This is a witness to the Glory of God. David was also a witness when he wrote this...

Psalm 34:17-22

17.

18. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted;
he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.

19. The righteous person faces many troubles,
but the Lord comes to the rescue each time.

20. For the Lord protects the bones of the righteous;
not one of them is broken!

21. Calamity will surely destroy the wicked,
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

22. But the Lord will redeem those who serve him.
No one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

Empty Sleeves(Retro Camera)

Lets take a look back at what some you may remember and others want to forget

(Old Sitcoms Pics)

(Last pic is the one of the Old Testament Pic with Charlton Heston)

Some of you remember these days and smile and others are reminded of torture, brokenness, emptiness etc...

We all have a little bit of both if we want to be real about it, this is the only Good Ol Day that really matters

(Pic of the Cross inside the Empty Film))

What happened on this day gave you every reason and every excuse to pick up the stone in the middle of your Jordan on your journey to freedom. This Good ol Day gives you the authority Place that memory on the wall in your home, that trophy above your fireplace, that ribbon hanging from your mirror. It's the testimony of how God has turned your life all the way around and brought you from the hands of the enemy and delivered into your purpose. It's the substance of things you've hoped for and the only evidence to believe. It's the promise fulfilled even when you didn't believe. It's the weakness you can boast in because it's the place where the power of God was made strong. It's the birth mark of your existence when you gave your life to Christ. It's the foot print on your Birth Certificate and the Obituary that tells the stories of how God led you through it all.

When they ask who sent you it will be this Good Ol Day that will sing a song entitled "I Am that I Am".

(Good Ol'Days Slide with Cross in background)

Invitation

It doesn't matter your battle, your circumstance, or your struggles. Right here and Right now you can make your mind up that this will be a stone that was set up only as a memorial because he's bringing you through this. This is only temporary and he hears your water in your body force the tears down your face. Yes it's scary and you've been pushed around long enough. You've held it in, turned the other cheek and tried being the bigger person. You've forgiven when you didn't feel like it but God said time is up and now it's time to let this be a stone and a story you'll tell of how you came through it. Today, you are living in the Good Ol Days.